
Meeting notes

Meeting Higher Education Design Quality Forum
Date April 26 2005
Venue University of Warwick

Present

Murdoch Cameron (MC) RMJM
Rupert Cook (RC) Architecture plb
Fiona Duggan (FD) DEGW
Richard Furter(RF) University College London
Roger Hawkins (RH) Hawkins Brown Architects
Nick Howkins(NH) Northcroft Construction
Eleanor Magennis(EM)University of Strathclyde
Prof Roy Newton-Chair (RN) University of Wolverhampton
David Emmanuel Noel (DEN) RIBA
Liz Pride (LP) McCormac Jamieson Pritchard
Len Wilson (LW) University of Sheffield

In attendance

Bill Ainsworth (BA) Ainsworth Sparks Architects
Rod Mcallister (RM) Sheppard Robson Architects
Prof. Peter James(PJ) Higher Education Environmental Performance
Improvement (HEEPI)

Apologies

Mel Barlex (MBx) University of Westminster
Michael Benias (MBs) University of Cambridge
Ian Caldwell(IC) Kings College
Joanna Eley (JE) Alexi Mermot Architects
Patrick Finch (PF) University of Bath
George Henderson (GH) University of De Montfort
Sir Kenneth Calman(KC) University of Durham
Sian Kilner (SK) Kilner Planning
Colin Moses (CM) RMJM
Ian Mehrtens (IM) Anglia Polytechnic University
Alice Mitchell(AM) Ultralab
Angela Nash (AN) University of Wolverhampton
David Pearce (DP) University of Wales College Newport
Jacqueline Squires (JS) HEFCE
Jo Wright (JW) Feilden Clegg

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1.0 **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed

2.0 **Matters Arising**

MB sent his apologies. Therefore the POE update will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

3.0 **Attendance**

RN welcomed the PJ from HEEPI and RM from Sheppard Robson Architects.

PJ heads the Higher Education Environmental Performance Improvement (HEEPI) project funded by HEFCE. Work has included running seminars at 'exemplar buildings', benchmarking building utility consumption, and running the Green Gown Awards for sustainable construction.

RM is a partner and design director at Sheppard Robson Architects and has completed award winning university and park projects. RM was a lecturer at the University of Liverpool and visiting professor at the La Sapienza University Rome.

4.0 **HEDQF 2005 Competition and Exhibition**

The forum has previously organised two touring exhibitions of buildings open for at least 18 months. The last exhibition, lunched at London's Building Centre by Sir Stuart Lipton was well received. The process involved selecting approximately 30 designs with a maximum of two projects per architectural practice.

Contributing to the exhibition costs, each practice will need to pay for their panel displays. These remain the property of the HEDQF. For the last exhibition, each panel was A1 portrait and followed HEDQF approved layouts.

Members questioned the selection process and the need to establish categories such as student housing and social spaces. Happy to curate the exhibition on behalf of the forum, RH invited members to join a working group responsible for establishing the criteria. FD, RH, RM, LW

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JR and IM volunteered. RH will convene the group.

It was generally agreed that successful entries should illustrate good client/ designer partnerships and a post occupancy evaluation of the building.

DEN's proposal of developing the exhibition into a competition was rejected by the forum. However, members were open to his idea of introducing a HE award for high profile RIBA events such as the Stirling Prize. DEN will consult the RIBA Awards team to see if this is all possible.

Through HEEPE , PJ organises the Green Gown Awards for sustainable construction. JR will run the award next year and invited the forum to participate in the judging

5.0 **International Conference with Union of International Architects**

BA was invited talk on behalf of the Union International Architect Educational Buildings and Cultural Spaces working group. The group has held previous conferences at universities in Bombay, Amsterdam and Newcastle. It is likely that the it will organise an education workshop in a member state within the next year. The dates are yet to be confirmed.

BA encouraged the forum to participate in planning the conference and endorsed RN's suggestion of exhibiting the entries form the proposed HEDQF Exhibition. Looking forward to working with the HEDQF, BA said he would update the forum with developments.

6.0 **Research Proposal to HEFCE Leadership, Governance & Management Fund**

The application is attached. The project will explore the design parameters of an e-learning environment and the flexible use of learning environments through technology. The project will seek to address the concerns expressed in section 16 of the HEFCE strategy for e-learning from the standpoints of:

- the impact of e-learning on facilities and their design
- the design of future spaces and how we get there.

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- the impact of blended learning on the design of spaces
- designing physical spaces and infrastructures for the learn anytime, anywhere paradigm
- the security issues of e-learning space design
- the levels of design risk in an e-learning infrastructure

The deliverable of the project will be

- A web- based and audio-visual library of good practice, including DVD format
- Conferences/workshops on good practice and guidance
- An HEDQF touring exhibition from web based library
- Papers and publications on findings regarding the current situation and guidance in the design of e-learning environments
- Potential HE degree programme for Project Researcher

RN encouraged members to email their ideas to DEN

7.0 **Brief for extended POE and Staff Space for HE, Social Spaces & Commercial sector**

Submitted by University of Strathclyde and DEGW

The full proposal is attached.

HM and FD proposed research project focusing on the University's Law School, where more than 50 academic and administrative staff are relocating in newly remodelled space. The project is due to start on-site in July 2005, with an anticipated completion date of April 2006

There appears to be very little focus on the workspace provided for staff or appropriateness of existing space for new working patterns.

Aligning this to HEFCE's Strategic objectives, members suggested that an English university sponsor the Strathclyde's proposal. On behalf of UCL, RF agreed to support the application.

8.0 **HEDQF 2005 November Conference**

The event will be stage at Universities UK Woburn House London in November. DEN will confirm the date shortly

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8.0 **Any Other Business**

8.1 RIBA Client Forum Education June Conference on use and Impact of technology on building design.

Using case studies and live demonstrations, the event aims to explore how e- learning, one touch and video conferencing will impact on the future design of education buildings. Chaired by Valerie Bragg of the RIBA Schools Client Forum, speakers include RN, Mukund Patel DfES and President of SCALA, Dr Andrew Murray of the British Council and William Jefferies of Squares & Partners Architects.

8.2 The CABE publication 'Design With Distinction' is now available. It is the first piece of UK research of its kind. Based on detailed assessment of five new case study buildings on university campuses, it analyses the links between the recruitment, retention and performance of staff and students, and the design quality of their buildings.

9.0 **Future Meetings**

Following meetings are scheduled for June 28th 2005

DEN/16th May 2005